

Six weeks ago perhaps not ten persons in ten thousand ever heard of or knew that there was such a mud hole on the map as Indianola, about which the rabid seecsh journals of the south have had the rabies and hysteria because it appears that the President exercised his prerogative on learning that an officer of the government there abiding had been threatened and intimidated by a mob more or less respectable—ordered it closed pending an investigation. The rebel yell followed the prompt action of the President, and there was loud talk of killing all his future Negro appointees in the south, etc., etc., etc.

The poor little colored woman who was Postmistress at this little obscure Mississippi village sent in her resignation because as she stated she had been warned and invited to step down and out. The sensational and lying newspapers north and south made a mountain out of a very small mole hill, and have repeatedly asseverated that she had stated that no one had threatened her. And yet she positively refuses to permit the Postmaster-General to re-establish her in her former office. Is there any colored woman or man in Washington, where the relations between the races are as harmoniously harmonious and happy as they are said to be in Indianola, who would need to be urged to support the constitution and sign the pay roll as this young woman has been to resume her duties as Postmistress? Even with the moral support of the President behind her she refuses this office.

The white folks say she has been treated with the utmost kindness by the white people; that she is a "likely Negress," etc., etc. But they nowhere say that they are in accord with the effort of the administration to reopen that office with its former Postmistress, in charge.

Where is Indianola, anyhow? It is somewhere in Sunflower county, which is only about 48 linear miles from the Heated Hence. It has a population of 600 (see census of 1900). Sunflower county has 4,006 white population, and 12,070 Negroes, 1,112 white and 1,703 colored males of voting age who can read and write.

If this isn't a case of the tail trying to wag the canine what is it?

The blackguards of the rebel press of the south have filled the air with the tumult of their discontent, and for what? For the purpose of frightening the young gentleman in the White House, and diverting him from the line of duty he has marked out for himself. They haven't succeeded and they will not succeed. The scheme they are playing is too transparent. It looks too much like a sympathetic strike of the laboring people. The south is determined if bulldozing language and bloodthirsty threats can accomplish it to keep Negroes out of public office in that section. But these cowardly and murderous mobs that threaten and intimidate defenseless black women will find out that there are some young and middle aged Negro men in the South who can shoot pretty straight, and who will shoot when crowded. Any Negro appointed to a Federal office and refusing it, because of the objection of a mob of Negro voting ex-rebels—who tried to shoot the stars of freedom out of old glory, will deserve all the bad treatment he receives. The white man of the South pretends to believe that the Negro is a moral coward. This is why he always goes after him in mobs of from 20 to 100. The Negro magnifies the physical skill of these white men, who are the

biggest cowards and the biggest liars on earth, and hesitates to go at them, when they come forward down south. Up north the white man does not have such a low estimate of the Negro. He knows he will strike back when struck and strike hard.

Is this the way Mississippi's new constitution encourages thrift and industry? The premium which the dear white people of that blood-stained state offers to ambitious and thrifty Negroes is murder. No new thing for Mississippi, as Copiah, Carrollton and Kemper county will testify. The last time I saw old Jim Chalmers (who personally while in command of a rebel brigade snatched a Negro babe from its mother's arms and dashed its brains out on the ground, he looked like an Egyptian mummy. The Negroes of Mississippi sent this thing to Congress and now they are getting paid for it.

But just think of a minority, 630 crack-ers, clay eaters, human devils and Democrats, raising all this row over one poor little colored woman, who with her husband are now so frightened that they scarcely know their name or where they are at. The rebel press has put words into her mouth exonerating the devils who drove her out of office, which I fear she dare not for obvious reasons deny. Somebody is doing some tall lying in this case and it isn't the President nor Mrs. Cox. This is clear.

BRUCE GRIT.

Yonkers, January 12, 1903.

PROF. JAMES E. MCGIRT

The new Poet and Playwrite, at Metropolitan A. M. E. Church, Jan. 20, 1903. The eyes of literary Washington will be focused on the entertainment given under the auspices of Bethel Society, at Metropolitan A. M. E. Church,



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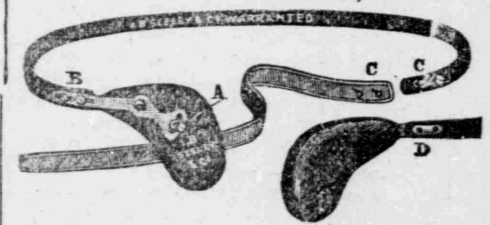
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